

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Laura Preston Collins

Pollnagroagh

Athenry

Galway

H65PN56

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 22 May 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of a 220kV substation, telecommunications mast and underground electricity cable infrastructure with associated works.

Location: Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Laura Preston Collins, I live in Pollnagroagh Athenry with my Father and brother. I attend college everyday in Galway city and need to leave early to get to college on time. The proposed road works will greatly affect the time it takes me to do this daily journey. As our home is directly adjoining the proposed access road, there will be major disruptions on the road I use daily. This submission concerns the proposed Cashla Peaker Project as a whole. In my opinion, the peaker plant would bring significant industrial activity into a quiet rural area and would negatively affect local residents, farms, wildlife and the overall character of the community. The concerns outlined below should be fully considered as part of this application.

Having reviewed the application documentation, I have outlined my concerns regarding the proposed development

Cumulative Construction Impact on Health and Wellbeing

I believe insufficient information has been provided regarding the cumulative impact of construction activity, heavy traffic movements, excavation works, noise and prolonged disruption on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents living close to the proposed infrastructure works.

Unsuitable Rural Location

I believe the proposed substation and mast are not suitable for this rural location. The development would introduce permanent industrial-scale infrastructure, including a 220kV substation, security fencing, lighting and telecommunications equipment, into an area characterised by homes, farms and open countryside.

Karst Geology and Constrained Road Network

The proposed cable route would involve major construction activity through established rural areas with ribbon development, homes, farms, schools and businesses located along the route. In my view, the cumulative impact of prolonged roadworks, rock-breaking, excavation activity and construction traffic has not been fully addressed within the application documentation, particularly given the sensitive karst limestone geology and constrained nature of the local road network.

Cumulative Impact on Community Access Routes

The roads affected by the proposed cable route are important community access routes serving homes, farms, schools and businesses across the wider Athenry area. In my view, the cumulative impact of prolonged construction activity, HGV traffic, road closures and disruption on daily community movement has not been adequately addressed within the application documentation.

Protection and Reinstatement of Mature Trees and Hedgerows

I do not believe sufficient information has been provided regarding how mature trees, hedgerows and root systems would be protected during construction works or how damaged vegetation would be reinstated afterwards. In my view, the long-term maintenance, stability and safety implications for roadside trees and boundary vegetation have not been adequately addressed.

Long-Term Impact on Rural Development Patterns and Amenity

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the long-term impact that concentrating large-scale energy infrastructure within the area could have on future rural development patterns, residential amenity and the character of the local community. The proposed development would introduce permanent industrial-scale infrastructure into an established rural landscape and could undermine the sustainable growth of the surrounding rural community, including the future use and development potential of nearby residential properties and landholdings.

Facilitating Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Against Climate Policy

The proposed substation, mast and underground cable infrastructure are intended to support the operation of new gas-fired electricity generation infrastructure. I am concerned that the proposed development would facilitate long-term fossil fuel energy infrastructure at a time when national and EU climate policy requires significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and greater transition towards sustainable and lower-carbon energy systems.

Residents and Landowners Not Individually Engaged

I am concerned that many residents, landowners and businesses affected by the proposed development were not individually engaged regarding the practical impact the project could have on homes, farms, local roads, property access and daily community life. No clear information appears to have been provided regarding issues such as noise, vibration, road closures, rock-breaking, groundwater impacts or future maintenance requirements.

Cannot Be Assessed in Isolation from the Wider Development

Although this application relates to grid connection infrastructure, I believe the proposed substation, mast and cable route cannot be properly assessed in isolation from the wider connected energy development to which it relates. The planning documentation does not adequately assess the combined and cumulative impact of the proposed infrastructure on the surrounding rural area, road network, residential amenity, agricultural activity and local environment in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

Conclusion

In my view, the cumulative impact of the proposed substation, mast and underground cable route has not been adequately assessed within the planning documentation. Significant concerns remain regarding the likely effects on residents, agriculture, groundwater protection, biodiversity, traffic safety and rural amenity. I do not believe sufficient information or mitigation has been provided to address these concerns, and I respectfully request that this application be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Preston Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Name: Laura Preston Collins

Date: 22 May 2026